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# THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 90

NO. 5

MAY 2005

FOUNDED 1917

## Reducing Bird Kills at Altamont Pass

**T**he dead Golden Eagle pictured here is one of approximately 116 killed every year by wind turbines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA), 50,000 acres of rolling hills in northeastern Alameda and southeastern Contra Costa counties. Some lose their wings, others are decapitated, and some, like this one, are cut in half. Up to 300 Red-tailed Hawks, 380 Burrowing Owls, and 2,500 Western Meadowlarks are also wiped out every year by the blades. In all, as many as 4,700 birds are killed annually by the APWRA's 6,000 wind turbines.

While this degree of slaughter is unacceptable, the good news is that, with an effort by the Altamont wind energy companies, the number of bird kills can be dramatically reduced. The bad news is that the companies may be unwilling to take the necessary steps. *A decision on what the companies will be required to do and the resulting fate of thousands of birds may be made at a June 2 hearing of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.*

No one argues now that the APWRA is probably the worst site ever chosen for a wind energy project. Given the location next to the largest known Golden Eagle nesting area in California, along a migratory route for many other raptors, and in an area replete with raptor prey, it should have come as no surprise that thousands of birds would be killed every year. But in the 1980s, Altamont was among the first wind energy sites to be built, and no one knew just how deadly those wind turbines could be.



One of the 116 Golden Eagles killed annually by the Altamont Pass wind turbines.

Public Interest Energy Resource Program/CEC

Now we know. A 2004 California Energy Commission (CEC) report, *Developing Methods to Reduce Bird Mortality in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area*—produced with four years of intensive monitoring data from the Altamont wind farms—reveals the

ALTAMONT PASS, continued on page 4

## Oakland Casino Still a Threat

**D**espite growing and vocal opposition, plans to build a 25,000-square-foot casino adjacent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park are still very much alive. The proposal from the Lower Lake Rancheria Koi Nation also includes a 1,000-seat auditorium, a 200-room hotel, several restaurants, and a multi-floor parking structure. This massive 34-acre development would border MLK, Jr. Shoreline Park, site of Arrowhead Marsh and the 72-acre restored wetland that Golden Gate Audubon was instrumental in creating. The park is also the location of our Eco-Oakland education program for East Oakland children and their families.

Your immediate help is needed to defeat this project that will have disastrous effects on wildlife and on the public's enjoyment of the park. Increased traffic (projected 30,000 car trips per day) and the many other human disturbances generated by the casino complex, including extensive night lighting, will negatively impact the marsh's population of endangered California Clapper Rails and the breeding and wintering shorebirds and waterfowl.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Oakland City Council, the cities of Alameda, Berkeley, and San Leandro, the East Bay Regional Park District, and many other conservation organizations all oppose the project. Congresswoman Barbara Lee, however, has not yet taken an official position on the casino.

CASINO UPDATE, continued on page 4

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CALIFORNIA  
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MAY 18 2005





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The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Society membership is \$25 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. Monthly meeting: second Friday in the West Bay; third Thursday in the East Bay, 7 p.m.

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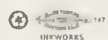
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# Members Flock to GGA

**I**n January, we made a significant change to our membership program and asked all of our members and supporters to renew their memberships at the beginning of the calendar year. Hundreds of you responded, making 2005 our most successful year for membership ever! We thank everyone who joined Golden Gate Audubon as first-time Supporting Members, as well as everyone who renewed their memberships in response to our first annual membership drive. We especially thank all of the National Audubon Society members—more than 350—who have become Supporting Members for the first time.

As you read in *The Gull* and in the letters we sent you, this change was a result of looking closely at the issues important to our members. After a great deal of consideration, we took a risk and changed from a monthly renewal system to an annual one. Our research showed that this change would cut our administration work by about half, so that our staff and volunteers could spend more time on the conservation, education, and birding programs that are the heart of what we do. The annual renewal system has already decreased our administrative effort, making it far easier for us to remind you when your membership is going to expire.

Your overwhelming response to our annual membership renewal program has reaffirmed your support for Golden Gate Audubon's work in the Bay Area. Thanks to this new system, Golden Gate Audubon has more than doubled its number of Supporting Members over the last few months.

If you have not yet renewed your membership or are waiting to join, it is not too late! Please fill out the membership form (page 11) and return it soon to ensure you don't miss a single copy of *The Gull*.

By renewing your membership or joining for the first time, you have told us how much you care about Bay Area birds and wildlife—and confirmed that you want to be a part of Golden Gate Audubon's conservation and education efforts. Thank you for showing your commitment to wildlife and wild places. We are proud to represent you as we work to protect the wildlife and habitats that we all hold so dear.

Elizabeth McNamee, Development Chair

## Generous Grants Support Eastshore State Park and Alameda Wildlife Refuge

Golden Gate Audubon is honored to have received two grants of \$10,000, facilitated by The San Francisco Foundation, from an anonymous donor committed to conserving East Bay wildlife and habitats. One grant will support our continuing efforts at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, where the U.S. Navy is conducting a second investigation of the contaminants present at the site. The question of contaminants is the major issue slowing the transfer of the land from the navy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—and thus the creation of the refuge. Golden Gate Audubon will use the funds to analyze the navy's investigation of the site and help us ensure that the navy adequately remediates the contaminants in order to preserve the refuge's tremendous wildlife resources.

The second grant will allow us to promote successful restoration of wildlife habitat at Eastshore State Park through a new program that will include conducting a year-long bird census and creating a checklist of the birds present, holding regular nature walks, and building public support for restoring the portion of the park designated as "conservation lands."

We are delighted to have the opportunity to carry out these much-needed conservation efforts, and we thank this generous donor and The San Francisco Foundation.

# Students Teach Parents About Ecology and Conservation

More than 70 family members came out two nights earlier this spring to watch their children share what they had learned about conservation and ecology through Eco-Oakland, Golden Gate Audubon's Environmental Education Program. The youngsters are fourth and fifth grade students from Markham and Melrose elementary schools in East Oakland.

Bilingual students at Markham Elementary wrote and performed original skits and created posters about marine ecology. The skits and posters illustrated a variety of conservation themes, including the importance of not polluting the watershed with oil, trash, or pesticides.

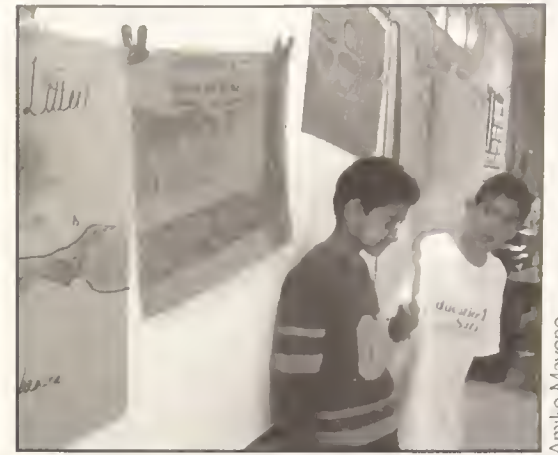
In one skit, a young man fixing his car was challenged by another young man who explained the devastating impact on wildlife and people when oil is dumped in storm drains. In another skit, a young girl questioned a gardener who was spraying harmful pesticides on the plants. She

explained how using organic gardening methods can better protect the environment. And in yet another skit, students demonstrated the importance of not disturbing birds. Each production was followed by a short explanation of the concept as illustrated in the posters.

At Melrose Elementary, fourth and fifth grade students showed their concern for the watershed by creating model watersheds in a pan. Students explained to their family members how trash and pollution in their neighborhood travels to the San Francisco Bay, the wetlands, and the ocean.

Amiko Mayeno, Eco-Oakland Program Manager, said, "I was impressed by the students' grasp of the conservation issues and how effective they were at presenting the issues in a clear, concise way to their families."

Both Amiko and youth coordinator Aida Villa noted how families have become more involved in the Eco-Oakland program. "We



Students at Markham Elementary School in Oakland performed skits and showed posters about ecology for Eco-Oakland's Family Night

were excited to see family members coming back for two and three years in a row," Amiko said. "The first year we had to coax parents to get involved, but this year they jumped right in. They made sure the program was running smoothly and showed the ropes to people who hadn't participated before."

## Viewing Nesting Least Terns in Alameda

The Return of the Terns Festival, to be held Sunday, June 12, offers a unique opportunity to see endangered California Least Terns tending to their chicks at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge. The festival, which also includes crafts and other activities, takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Crab Cove Visitor Center, 1252 McKay Avenue, in Alameda. It is cosponsored by the East Bay Regional Park District and Golden Gate Audubon.

Wildlife biologist Rachel Hurt will lead hour-long bus tours from the visitor center to the tern nesting sites at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. To avoid disturbing the nesting activities, everyone will remain on the bus. Reservations are required, and a \$3 fee is charged. Reservations may be made online at [www.ebayparks.org](http://www.ebayparks.org) or by calling 510.636.1684. Bring binoculars if you have them. Binoculars may be borrowed from the park district by calling 510.521.6887 to reserve them. Cameras are allowed.

Before each bus trip, visitors can enjoy a half-hour slide program about the history, habits, and habitats of the Least Tern, as well as behaviors to look for during the site visit. The tern population at the Alameda refuge has grown from 10 nesting pairs in 1976 to nearly 400 in 2004, a fabulous success story. At the festival, you can learn how to help protect these extraordinary birds and their habitat.



Students proudly stand around a pile of iceplants that they removed from the Alameda Wildlife Refuge in March.

## Students Improve Least Tern Habitat

Fifth graders from Paden and Amelia Earhart Schools in Alameda spent a half day improving habitat for Least Terns and observing birds at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge. They distributed 60 small wooden "chick chalets," built by volunteer Frank Delfino, to provide shelter for young terns from inclement weather and predators, and they cleared 1,200 square feet of non-native iceplants in less than 45 minutes. "Ten-year-olds really enjoy this activity," notes GGA board member Leora Feeney. "We had a difficult time getting them to stop working."



extent of the slaughter. The loss of eagles is bad enough, but considering that grassland species are the most rapidly declining bird populations in our nation, the death of 2,500 meadowlarks a year is further cause for action.

Fourteen months ago, Golden Gate Audubon joined the Center for Biological Diversity and CALifornians for Renewable Energy (CARE) in a formal appeal to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors challenging the reissuance of permits for 18 of Altamont's 20 wind farms in Alameda County. The permits were reissued without requirements for decreasing bird mortality caused by the turbines and without an environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act. We asked for an environmental review and a reduction in bird mortality. The supervisors responded by recommending that the issues be resolved through a working group of industry, county staff, landowners, and environmentalists.

The 2004, and subsequent, CEC reports make clear that the wind power industry at Altamont can reduce bird deaths by as much as 50 percent within three years and an amazing 85 percent within six years. The most important steps for achieving this are the removal of turbines revealed by the

CEC study to be the deadliest to birds and shutting down turbines during the four winter months when winds are the least useful for wind energy.

For the past several months, Golden Gate Audubon has been working with the wind energy industry through a public "working group" to find solutions to the unacceptable bird kill at Altamont Pass. Unfortunately, the wind energy industry has not yet agreed to take steps to substantially reduce bird kills. A recent CEC report estimated that the industry would suffer a 10 to 16 percent loss of total energy generation if it shut down its turbines in the winter. But the industry claims, with no documentation, that such efforts would be financially devastating. They propose, instead, only a 35 percent reduction in bird kills, with the caveat that they not be held to this goal if it proves too costly for them to implement. At best, this proposal would still allow unacceptable levels of bird mortality, with as many as 75 Golden Eagles and 3,055 total birds dying each year.

Golden Gate Audubon and our partners have suggested new mechanisms that would allow the companies to implement the CEC recommendations with fewer financial impacts. We hope they will find them attractive. If no agreement can be reached,

on Thursday, June 2, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing to determine the fate of thousands of eagles, hawks, meadowlarks, and other birds per year—and tens of thousands of birds over the coming decade.

by Arthur Feinstein, Conservation Director

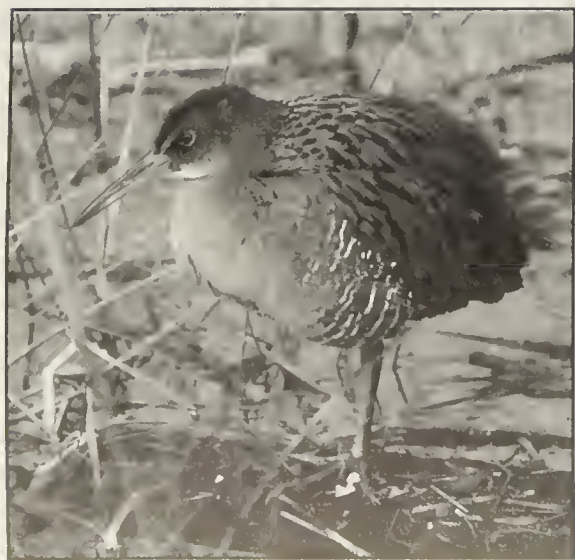
### How You Can Help

Help the supervisors reach the right decision by asking them to require the Altamont wind energy industries to reduce bird kills by 50 percent within three years and 85 percent within six years. You can help us ensure that wind energy is truly green and not an industry that thrives at the expense of the lives of birds. Write to Alameda County Board of Supervisors, c/o Clerk, 1221 Oak Street, Suite 536, Oakland, CA 94612, and reference the issue as "APWRA Conditional Use Permits."

Please also attend and speak at the supervisors' hearing on Thursday, June 2, at 9 a.m., at 1221 Oak Street. Because the meeting is more than two months away from the writing of this article, call the clerk at 510.272.6347 to make sure the issue is still on the agenda and at what time of day.

Have questions or need help with your letter? Call Arthur Feinstein at 510.843.6551.

She needs to hear from you that the casino should not move forward so she can join the



Clapper Rail at Arrowhead Marsh.

many other elected officials in opposing this devastating project.

### How You Can Help

Please write Congresswoman Barbara Lee, 1301 Clay Street, Suite 1000 North, Oakland, CA 94612, and ask her to oppose the casino. In your letter, underscore the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park to the community and the need to protect the park's birds. Send a copy of your letter to Clay Gregory, Regional Director, Pacific Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. If you have any questions, call Arthur Feinstein at 510.843.6551.

### Enhance Your Library at the May Book Sale

Over the years, Golden Gate Audubon has been the grateful recipient of numerous ornithological books, field guides, and journals. We now find that some titles in our library are duplicates and others are rarely, if ever, used by staff or members. We are offering more than 300 publications for sale on Friday, May 13, 1–5 p.m., and Saturday, May 14, 1–4 p.m., at the GGA Office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley. Proceeds from the sale will help fund GGA's ongoing education and conservation programs.

# PROGRAMS

Anne McTavish



Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., healthful, delicious snacks are served by hospitality coordinator, Susanne Shields. (All utensils, cups, and plates are made from corn, wheat, soy, and sugarcane by-products, and are compostable and break down in landfills in three weeks.) If you would like to suggest food and drinks for meetings or would like to help, call Susanne at 415.810.4900, or email [susannekshields@yahoo.com](mailto:susannekshields@yahoo.com). For information about upcoming events, detailed directions, or updates, see [www.goldengateaudubon.org/Chapter/programs2005](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/Chapter/programs2005).

## Saving the Last Bighorn Sheep

San Francisco

Friday, May 13

Frank Green

Filmmaker Frank Green will show and discuss his documentary film, *Counting Sheep*, which was shot over a period of 12 years and tells the story of the last native bighorn sheep fighting for survival in the rugged eastern Sierra Nevada.

Threats from mountain lions have forced wildlife

officials to take extraordinary measures to protect the bighorn. Two men, a scientist and a mountain lion tracker, stand between the bighorn sheep and extinction. Their story is played out in the breathtaking remote reaches of the bighorn habitat: jagged cliff faces, far-flung canyons, and narrow ledges two miles high.

This award-winning film was produced by Green TV, an environmental video production company, and by Frank Green, a veteran TV journalist and filmmaker, whose environmental documentaries have won national and international awards and have been shown on PBS and the Discovery Channel.

County Fair Building, Strybing Arboreum  
Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way  
Directions: [www.strybing.org/visiting/page2/html](http://www.strybing.org/visiting/page2/html)



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## Seeing the Red Owl: A Naturalist's Journey into Madagascar

Berkeley

Thursday, May 19

Luke Cole

Join Luke Cole for an exploration of Madagascar's unique flora and fauna in his quest to see the elusive Red Owl, a journey that highlights the many challenges Madagascar faces in preserving its amazing natural heritage. Using his search for one of the world's rarest owls as a metaphor, Cole examines the impact of development, colonialism, political strife, ecotourism, and conservation on Madagascar. The cast of characters Cole encounters in his journey illustrate the promise of, and difficulties in, preserving the Red Island's remaining rain and dry forests and their abundant wildlife. Cole uses images from his month in Madagascar, and experiences from his nearly four years living in Africa, to tell a tale that is, by turns, humorous and tragic, but ultimately hopeful.

Luke Cole is an environmental and civil rights attorney and the director of the Center on Race Poverty & the Environment in San Francisco. He represents low-income communities fighting environmental hazards throughout the United States. He is also past chair of the California Bird Records committee and regional editor of *North American Birds*.

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda  
(between Solano and Marin)

Directions: [www.northbrae.org/directions.html](http://www.northbrae.org/directions.html)

## Wanted: Energetic Volunteer to Plan East Bay Programs

Golden Gate Audubon is seeking a volunteer to organize our East Bay monthly programs. The programs feature speakers who give slide-illustrated talks on a wide variety of topics, from birding adventures in exotic parts of the globe to Bay Area birds and conservation issues.

The position entails contacting potential speakers, scheduling appearance dates, introducing the programs, and ensuring that arrangements are set up properly at the site. The programs are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month (except June, July, August, and December) in Berkeley.

If you are interested in this fascinating and rewarding assignment, call Elizabeth Murdock, Executive Director, at 510.843.9912, or send an e-mail to [volunteer@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@goldengateaudubon.org).

## GGA Hosts Needed at Audubon Canyon Ranch

Want a chance to enjoy a beautiful nature and birding site while helping others? Join the GGA team of Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) hosts this spring. Every year, from mid-March to mid-July, thousands of visitors come to see herons and egrets nesting in the redwood trees at the ACR Bolinas Preserve, overlooking Bolinas Lagoon in western Marin County. Hosts greet and direct visitors and answer questions. (All information needed is provided in advance.) Golden Gate Audubon, which helped establish Audubon Canyon Ranch, is responsible for providing volunteer hosts on the following dates: May 7, 8, 29, and 30; June 25 and 26; and July 17. For more information and to sign up, contact Bill Hering at 415.863.3625 or [bhering@aao.org](mailto:bhering@aao.org).



# FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



## Wildcat Canyon Regional Park

*Contra Costa County*

**Sunday, May 1**

Leader: Malcolm Sproul, 925.376.8945

Meet at 8 a.m. by Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Ave. (next to tennis courts between Brewster Dr. and Thors Bay Rd.) in El Cerrito. From there we will drive to trailhead on Rifle Range Rd. We will hike for 6 miles through brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian areas, and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants such as Western Tanager and a good representation of nesting birds including Grasshopper Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. We will also identify common trees. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends at about 2 p.m.

## Strybing Arboretum

*San Francisco*

**Sundays, May 1 and June 5**

Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna, 415.566.3241, and Ginny Marshall, 650.349.3780

For this half-day trip, meet at 8 a.m. at front gate of arboretum, Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way. Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Prk, with several microhabitats that attract a varied array of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds. All levels of birders welcome.

## Birding for Children

*San Francisco Botanical Garden*

**Saturday, May 7 and June 4**

Leaders: Angie Geiger and Nancy DeStefanis, San Francisco Nature Education, and Darin Dawson, San Francisco Botanical Garden docent, 415.387.9160, [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org)

Meet at 10 a.m. for this first Saturday of the month trip at kiosk/bookstore near main gate of San Francisco Botanical Garden at

Strybing Arboretum, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way. This birding tour and nature hike for children ages 7 to 14 wends through garden's microhabitats. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Trip ends at noon. Bring binoculars and pencil. Cosponsored by botanical garden, San Francisco Nature Education, and Golden Gate Audubon.

## Glen Canyon Park

*San Francisco*

**Sunday, May 8**

Leader: David Armstrong, 415.305.7681; [darmstrong99@yahoo.com](mailto:darmstrong99@yahoo.com)

Meet at 9 a.m. in front of Glen Park Recreation Center for this 2-hour walk. Group is limited to 15 people; contact leader to reserve space, preferably by email. All levels of birders welcome. Park at end of Bosworth St., near O'Shaughnessy and Bosworth, and walk down paved path to center.

## Tilden Regional Park

*Berkeley*

**Sunday, May 8**

Leader: Lewis Cooper, 510.526.1773, [lbcpr@earthlink.net](mailto:lbcpr@earthlink.net)

Meet at 9 a.m. at Nature Area parking lot for this half-day trip. We will bird Jewel Lake and other areas. Orange-crowned Warblers and House Wrens should be vocal, and Black-headed Grosbeaks and migrating hummingbirds should be present. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Enter park from Canyon Dr. (where Spruce St. meets Wildcat Canyon Rd.) or Shasta Rd. (off Grizzly Peak Blvd.) in Berkeley, and follow the signs

to Nature Area at north end of park. See May 10 trip for bus route.

## Tilden Regional Park

*Berkeley*

**Tuesday, May 10**

Leader: Bob Lewis, 510.845.5001; [rlewis0727@aol.com](mailto:rlewis0727@aol.com)

Meet at 8 a.m. at Nature Area parking lot. We will look for returning migrants such as warblers, vireos, Allen's Hummingbird, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Trip lasts 2 to 3 hours. Beginners welcome.

By bus: Take #67 at downtown Berkeley BART (departs 7:12 a.m. and 7:42 a.m.), which takes 12 minutes to arrive at Spruce/Grizzly Peak Blvd. intersection. From there it is a 10-minute walk downhill to Nature Area parking lot. See May 8 trip for driving directions.

## Arrowhead Marsh Family Trip

*Oakland*

**Friday, May 13**

Leader: Rene Urriola, 510.938.8016; [rene25@gmail.com](mailto:rene25@gmail.com)

Meet at 3:15 p.m. in front of lookout structure. This monthly 2-hour trip is for families who want to learn about Arrowhead Marsh birds and work on restoring bird habitat. Children of all ages are welcome. Trip will be conducted in Spanish and English. Binoculars will also be available.

Take I-880 to Hegenberger exit, then go west on Hegenberger to Doolittle Dr. Turn right on Doolittle, then right onto Swan Way and left into MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park. Drive to end for Arrowhead Marsh parking lot.

## Bicycle Trip: Iron Horse Trail

*Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*

**Saturday, May 14**

Leader: Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233 (no calls after 9pm), call for cell number, [kathy\\_jarrett@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com)

Meet just outside turnstile at Dublin/



Contact Susan Groves, Field Trips Committee Chair, at 510.654.5954 or [susangroves@att.net](mailto:susangroves@att.net):

- if you can share a ride or if you need a ride,
- if you have difficulty reaching a leader and need information,
- if you have suggestions for trips, or
- if you are interested in leading a trip.

## key



**Carpool**



**Entrance fee required**



**Biking trip**

Pleasanton BART Station at 8:15 a.m. for a 20-mile excursion between Dublin and Pleasant Hill. Trip ends around 3 p.m. A bird checklist for Heather Farms is at [www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php](http://www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php) (select Birds, then Bird Checklists, then Heather Farms). See *March Gull* for trip description and route.

Allow time to get your ticket processed and your bicycle to platform. From S.F. leave Embarcadero at 7:29 a.m. and arrive Dublin/Pleasanton at 8:11. From East Bay depart Rockridge BART at 7:10 a.m., transfer to Fremont train at Macarthur at 7:14 a.m., and Dublin/Pleasanton train at Bayfair at 7:55. View BART Saturday schedules online at [www.transitinfo.org](http://www.transitinfo.org).



## Garin Regional Park

*Alameda County*

**Sunday, May 15**

Leader: Anne Hoff, 510.845.5908

Meet in parking lot at 8 a.m. Garin has a riparian corridor where Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Western Bluebirds, and Bullock's and Hooded Orioles may be seen and heard at close range. A grassy hillside is attractive to raptors, and a small pond is sure to have coot and other swimmers. These habitats are in a compact area also popular with picnickers, so trip will end when competition becomes too great. Temperatures can be hot, so bring water.

Take I-580 to Foothill Blvd./Rt. 238 exit in Hayward. Continue straight onto Foothill. In about 1.5 miles, when Foothill divides, stay left to continue on Mission Blvd./Rt. 238. In about 2.5 miles, very soon after Industrial Parkway meets Mission from right, turn left onto Garin Ave. Follow street uphill to where it ends at in parking lots. Meet in parking area farthest to left (north).

## Redwood Regional Park

*Alameda County*

**Sunday, May 15**

Leader: Denise Wight, 510.547.6822 (w), 925.377.0951 (h); [blkittiwake@yahoo.com](mailto:blkittiwake@yahoo.com)

Meet at 8 a.m. for this half-day birding-by-ear walk. We will focus on birds within and adjacent to redwood forest, listening to songs and harder to identify calls of various species.

Take Hwy. 13 to Redwood Rd. exit. Go east (toward hills) on Redwood Rd. for 3 miles to park entrance

on left. Meet in northernmost parking lot. [\$]

## Sunol Regional Park

*Alameda County*

**Saturday, May 21**

Leader: Bruce Mast, 510.435.1371; [Bmast@alumni.rice.edu](mailto:Bmast@alumni.rice.edu)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at ranger station parking lot inside park near green barn. We will explore creekside habitat up to Little Yosemite, looking for migrants, sparrows, raptors, and local breeding birds. Bring lunch.

Take I-680 south to about 8 miles beyond intersection of I-580. Exit at Calaveras Rd., go left (south) and follow signs to park, about 5 miles.

[\$]

## Aquatic Park

*San Francisco*

**Sunday, May 22**

Leader: SF Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser, 415.561.7100 or 561.7104

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at foot of Hyde Street Pier (Hyde and Jefferson) for this two-hour beginners' bird walk. Discover birds next door to the urban environment. Dress in layers. Trip is wheelchair accessible.

## Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park

*Oakland*

**Wednesday, May 25**

Leaders: Hilary Powers, 510.834.1066; Travis Hails, 510.451.1207 (no calls after 9 p.m.), [travishails@yahoo.com](mailto:travishails@yahoo.com); Ruth Tobey, [ruthsobey@earthlink.net](mailto:ruthsobey@earthlink.net)

Meet at 9:30 a.m. on lake side of Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue Sts. We'll go down lake toward Embarcadero or up path across street from Nature Center to Children's Fairyland and back through fenced garden. If you miss us, we may still be in sight. The trip, which ends at noon or before, will be on smooth paths and lawns, with some mild slopes.

Take 12, N, or NL bus to Grand and Perkins and walk into park on Perkins, or park in free lot at boat-house, 568 Bellevue. From parking lot, walk past the children's art center to far side of bird yard with freshwater ponds.

## Lake Merritt

*Oakland*

**Saturday, May 28**

Leader: Travis Hails, 510.451.1207 (no calls after 9 p.m.), [travishails@yahoo.com](mailto:travishails@yahoo.com)

Meet at 8 a.m. at large spherical cage near Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue Sts. Focus will be on waterfowl and waterbirds of Lake Merritt. Beginners welcome. For driving and bus directions, see May 25 trip.

## Hayward Regional Shoreline

*Alameda County*

**Saturday, June 4**

Leader: Pamela Llewellyn, 510.843.7904, [seacreature219@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seacreature219@sbcglobal.net)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Interpretive Center for this trip focusing on nesting birds in Hayward Shoreline marsh. Special guest Peter Dramer will join us and share history of marsh and birds that depend on it. Advance registration with leader is required, and number of participants is limited to 20, due to sensitive nesting habitat. A second trip is tentatively planned for end of June. One week cancellation prior to trip is requested.

Take Hwy. 92 west and exit at Clawiter. Cross Clawiter, turn left onto Breakwater, and go to end where you will see Interpretive Center and parking.

## Lassen Volcanic National Park

*Shasta and Lassen Counties*

**Friday–Sunday, June 24–26**

Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy, [murphsf@comcast.net](mailto:murphsf@comcast.net)

Plan ahead and join us on our annual family excursion to Lassen. In past years, we have seen Willow, Hammond's, and Dusky Flycatchers, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, and most of warblers and finches that breed in mountains. We bird the park on Friday, beginning at 6:30 a.m. On Saturday, we meet at 7:30 a.m. and caravan to locations north of the park. Trip ends at lunchtime on Sunday, after another morning enjoying the park's birdlife. Detailed itinerary will appear in the *Summer Gull*. Camping facilities are at Manzanita Lake. For park

FIELD TRIPS, continued on page 9



# OBSERVATIONS

March 1–31, 2005  
Bruce Mast



**M**arch marked the acceleration of spring migration. The email lists were full of first-of-spring sightings for Wilson's Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Hooded Orioles, Western Tanagers, and more. Most diving ducks moved north to follow the advancing spring thaw. One of the more remarkable migration events this spring did not involve birds. The last few days of March, millions of Painted Lady butterflies began pouring through the region, all heading north and prompting lively discussions on several bird forums.

According to Iowa State University's Red Admiral and Painted Lady Research Site ([www.public.iastate.edu/~mariposa/](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~mariposa/)), Painted Ladies migrate only sporadically. Most years, the butterflies persist at low to moderate levels in arid regions such as the desert Southwest. During wet years, the butterfly population explodes in response to the abundant plant growth. After depleting the food supplies, the vast majority of them migrate to greener pastures.

## Loons to Ducks

Continuing Red-necked Grebes lingered at Crissy Fields, SF, and Bodega Bay, SON (mob). New Red-necked sightings were reported at Princeton Harbor, SM, on the 1st (RST); Harbor Bay Parkway, Oakland, ALA, on the 24th (JR); and Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, on the 26th (WL). Cattle Egrets turned up in SCL, beginning the 11th at Calero Reservoir (FV; BRe) and then Mar. 23–25 along Llagas Creek at Bloomfield Road (MP; BB, FV, BRe). A few Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Cackling Geese lingered throughout the month and Brants were seen moving north along the SF coast by the 12th (AWi, DA).

A male Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, remained through the 9th. New Eurasian sightings were recorded at Stevens Creek, SCL, on the 16th (BB) and at Albany Mudflats, ALA, on the 26th (KA). A couple Eurasian-American hybrids remained in SM at Bayfront Park

(RF) and Nob Hill Market in Redwood Shores (RST, KO). The Redhead flock on Salt pond A2W, SCL, dwindled to 2–5 by Mar. 2, down from its Feb. high of 93 (BB). March duck tallies for the region were down for Tufted (3) and Long-tailed Ducks (1) but up for Harlequins (7). White-winged and Black Scoters were sighted at a num-



Painted Lady butterfly.

ber of SF and SM coastal locales. A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes hung around Shoreline Lake, SCL, through the 6th (mob).

## Raptors to Alcids

At the Marin Headlands, a 1st year Bald Eagle flew over Rodeo Lagoon on the 20th (WL). On the 31st, MRN observers found a Common Black-Hawk gliding and soaring in the vicinity of Hawk Hill (SB, GG). A common Black-hawk had been wintering in north Stockton, SJ, since at least November. As in February, Golden Eagles, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons were all widely reported. A Golden Eagle pair has returned to its nest site in Sibley RP, ALA, while a Peregrine nest atop the PG&E building in downtown SF is now under constant electronic surveillance.

An early Solitary Sandpiper put in an appearance at Bayside Park, SM, on the 25th (EL). Wandering Tattlers were to be found Mar. 4–12 below Sutro Baths, SF (BF; DA); on the 20th at Arrowhead Marsh,

ALA (WK); and on the 26th at Bodega Bay, SON (RSt).

February's gull-watching opportunities mostly persisted into March. The purported Kunilien's **Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucoides*) remained at Hidden Lake in Milpitas, SCL through the 7th (AJ; mob). At Venice Beach in Half Moon Bay, SM, overall gull numbers were down but the flock still featured a **Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*) on the 21st (AJ; mob). This individual was a 3rd or 4th winter bird, whereas previous Slaty-backed had been ID'd as 2nd and 3rd winter birds. A Glaucous Gull also remained with the Venice Beach flock. Other Glaucous Gulls were reported on the 4th at Sutro Baths, SF (BF) and on the 7th at Arrowhead Marsh, ALA (mob). Up to 20 Black Skimmers had returned to Charleston Slough, SCL, by the 3rd (BB; TK, JB). An Ancient Murrelet floated off Pigeon Pt, SM, on the 3rd (RST, AE) and 5 more made the Farallon Islands (SF) trip list on the 26th (HC).

## Doves to Thrashers

On Mar. 15, a flock of 70 Band-tailed Pigeons were found foraging on the ground among seaweed and crustaceans along the Coyote Point, SM, shoreline (RST). Northern Pygmy-Owl calls were heard along Mines Road, ALA (BB) and at Monte Bello OSP, SCL (JaC, MM, MRo; BB). Multiple Burrowing Owls were noted at Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley, ALA (BP; mob); Dublin, ALA (DB; DHe); and Arzino Ranch, SCL (BB; FV, BRe). The resident Barred Owl at Muir Woods National Monument, MRN, took up the question "Who cooks for you?" on the 13th (JW). The Long-eared Owl at Ed Levin CP (SCL) was not reported but a Long-eared was heard vocalizing near the Jones Gulch YMCA Camp on Pescadero Rd., SM, on the 10th (GH). Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard at Tilden RP, CC (BP), and at Monte Bello OSP, SCL (mob).

Birders found 15–20 Lewis's Woodpeckers at Lake Berryessa, NAP, on the 7th (DaH, DeH). The Lake Cunningham (SCL) Williamson's Sapsucker stuck around all month (KB; mob). The Hidden Villa (SCL) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker stayed through at least the 17th (GH; mob) and another Yellow-bellied turned up at the Palo Verde

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Apartments in Lafayette, CC, on the 10th (DS). Pileated Woodpeckers were seen or heard drumming in several ridge-top forests in ALA, SCL, and SM.

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher provided the sound track at Fort Miley, SF, on the 8th (SR). Also on the early side, an Ash-throated Flycatcher hit Petaluma, SON, on the 5th (DE). Two Yellow-billed Magpies maintained their outpost at the India Basin boat yard, SF, through the 30th (mob). A solo Bank Swallow charted a course over Coyote Point, SM on the 29th (RST). SF's 2 Western Bluebirds remained all month in the Presidio, near Lobos Dunes and Creek (MZ; mob). A Mountain Bluebird frequented Outer PRNS, MRN, Mar. 12–14 (EB; BF, JL). The locally rare Wrentit continued its skulking ways around Bayview Hill in SF (mob).

## Wood Warblers to Finches

March saw the return of typical western warblers (e.g., Wilson's and Orange-crowned). Otherwise, warbler traffic remained light, with most sightings concentrated in SF. Most birds were overwintering individuals. A Mar. 17 trip to San Antonio Rd, SCL, documented the return of a Sage Sparrow (BB).

On Mar. 3, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found skulking in the pickleweed at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL (PSu).

The sole Swamp Sparrow this month was the Livermore, ALA, bird, last reported on the 8th at Las Positas Arroyo, where it has wintered since November. Tan-morph White-throated Sparrows lingered in a Los Altos, SCL, backyard (RC) and at Lafayette Park, SF (PMC; mob). Starting Mar. 16, a Harris's Sparrow joined a Zonotrichia flock at Sunol Regional Park, ALA (RL; mob). A birder tallied 36 Tricolored Blackbirds at Calero Reservoir, SCL, on the 12th (MRo). Small numbers of Tricolored were noted at Las Positas Arroyo on the 19th (MaM) and at Ogier Ponds, SCL, on the 27th (MM). Birders looking for the Lake Cunningham sapsucker also reported a Great-tailed Grackle Mar. 15–24 (KB; SuB).

Atop Mount Davidson, SF, a female Cassin's Finch moved through on the 26th, en route to higher elevations (CDL; SR). Red Crossbill numbers dwindled to just a few birds at Monte Bello OSP and Summit Road, SCL (GH, BB, DS) and at the Presidio, Mt. Davidson, and Lincoln Park in SF (BF, DA, PS, HC).

FIELD TRIPS, continued from page 7

information, go to [www.nps.gov/lavo/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/lavo/index.htm). Lodging is available 15 miles north of park at Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (530.335.7121).

## Pelagic Trip: Tufted Puffins and Farallon Islands

Sunday, August 7

Leader: Alan Hopkins, 415.664.0983

Golden Gate Audubon and Shearwater Journeys are offering a trip to see Tufted Puffins and other alcids at Farallon Islands. After visiting Farallons, weather permitting, we will continue west to the Continental Shelf to look for deep-water species such as Black-footed Albatross and Blue Whale. Participants travel on Salty Lady, which departs from Sausalito at 7:30 a.m. and returns about 8 hours later. Last year's trip was outstanding (see the December 2004 *Gull*), and this trip will surely fill early. Special GGA Supporting Member price is \$99; nonmembers are welcome at regular \$115 price (both nonrefundable). To register, send a check for each participant. Note if you are a GGA Supporting Member. Also include a phone number and e-mail address (if available) for each member in your party and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail to Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister CA 95024. For more information, call trip leader.

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Nashville Warbler

1/10–3/17	Pine L., SF	PMC; mob
2/20–3/29	Middle L., GP, SF	AW, MWE; mob
3/7	Sunset Circle, SF	DM, FC
3/15–24	Presidio, Mountain Lake, SF	JC; MZ
3/30	Mt. Davidson, SF	DA

### Magnolia Warbler

1/1–3/30	Pine L., SF	mob
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### Hermit Warbler

3/15	Pine L., SF	JC
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### Palm Warbler

2/11–3/25	Huffaker Park, Mission Bay, SF	DA; mob
1/25–3/3	Redwood Shores, SM	RST

### Northern Waterthrush

2/16–3/17	Charleston Rd. Marsh, SCL	BRe; mob
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**Abbreviations for Observers:** DA, David Armstrong; KA, Ken Archibald; BB, Bill Bousman; BrB, Brian Bullick; DB, David Bowden; EB, Ellen Blustein; JB, Josh Bennett; KB, Kim Blythe; MB, Michelle Brodie; MBu, Michael Butler; SB, Steve Bauer; SuB, Summer Brasuel; FC, Fred Chambers; HC, Hugh Cotter; JC, Josiah Clark; JaC, Jack Cole; RC, Rita Colwell; ADM, Al DeMartini; DE, Daniel Edelstein; AE, Al Eisner; ArE, Art Edwards; JE, Jules Evens; MWE, Mark Eaton; BF, Brian Fitch; RF, Rich Ferrick; GG, Greg Gothard; SG, Steve Glover; ASH, Alan Hopkins; BH, Bob Hall; DH, David Hofmann; DaH, David Hamilton; DeH, Denise Hamilton DHe, Derek Heins; GH, Garth Harwood; HH, Hugh Harvey; SH, Steve Howell; AJ, Alvaro Jaramillo; PK, Patrick King; TK, Toni Koenen; WK, Win Kryda; PL, Pamela Llewellyn; CDL, Calvin Lou; EL, Eric Lichtwardt; RL, Randy Little; RLe, Rick Lebaudour; WL, William Legge; DM, Dan Murphy; PMC, Pat McCulloch; MM, Mike Mammoser; MaM, Mark Miller; CO, Camen Oliver; FO, Frances Oliver; KO, Kris Olson; BP, Bob Power; HP, Hilary Powers; MP, Mark Paxton; BRe, Bob Reiling; JRo, Jim Rowoth; JRy, Jennifer Rycenga; KR, Karen Rosenbaum; MR, Mark Rauzon; MRi, Matt Ricketts; MRo, Mike Rogers; SR, Siobhan Ruck; DS, Denise Schafer; JuS, Judi Sierra; PS, Paul Saraceni; PSu, Patti Sutch; RS, Rich Stallcup; RSt, Ron Storey; ET, Ed Tanov; RT, Ryan Temli; RST, Ron Thom; FV, Frank Vanslager; AW, AWi; JW, Jim White; MZ, Matt Zlatunich

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers, "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listers; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; BBA, Breeding Bird Atlas; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Creek Field Station; Cr., Creek; Cyn., Canyon; DENWR, Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge; GGP, Golden Gate Park; L., Lake; MRN, Marin; N., North; NAP, Napa; NSMWA, NAP-SON Marshes Wildlife Area; OSP, Open Space Preserve; Pt., Point; PRNS, Pt Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; Rd., Road; Res., Reservoir; RS, Regional Shoreline; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant

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Golden Gate Audubon, a cutting-edge environmental organization, encourages all birders to share rides on our field trips. In this way, we cut down on the number of cars going on our trips and help reduce air pollution. So next time, plan ahead and open your car to additional riders. Contact the Field Trips Coordinator and she will put you in touch with other people who want to go on the same trip.

# BACKYARD BIRDER

Meg Pauletich



With the change of weather—too much rain or a sudden heat wave—ants, which are always around, find indoor areas to their liking, especially the kitchen. I'm with those of you who go into mild hysterics at the sight of an army of ants marching up the wall into the kitchen cupboards. I don't like this invasion of my personal domain, but I do have to admire the ants' perseverance.

That is only one reason I found the recent exhibit of ant colonies, "Ants: Hidden Worlds Revealed," at the California Academy of Sciences, so fascinating. As part of the exhibit, staff even went to Costa Rica to collect more ants for display (ants don't live forever). Even though the formal exhibit has ended, you can look at the activities of some of the ant colonies online at [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org).

In the process of seeking out an ant colony, the museum's collectors discovered that certain birds benefited from the columns of army ants. As the army marches through the tropical jungle, most living creatures scatter in great fear because the ants kill and eat anything in their path. Birds in the antbird family, however, follow the ants. These birds rarely eat ants (which is good for the ants), but they enjoy many other items flushed by the army, such as insects, frogs, lizards, and other small animals. Antbirds pay little attention to other ant species, even ignoring army ants that do not flush prey. I wondered if this antbird behavior was an example of symbiosis.

Symbiosis is defined as any association between two different organisms, including parasitism and commensalism. The latter, a new word for me, is a term for the process whereby birds and other animals profit from certain habits of their neighbors without causing major harmful or positive effects on those neighbors. In commensalism, one of the partners gets food, transportation, or a combination of both from the other partner,

which is not impacted.

For example, sapsuckers drill a series of holes in trees, causing the sap to flow, which the bird harvests with its long tongue. Many other birds benefit from this feeding station, such as other woodpeckers, warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and hummingbirds. They also feed on the insects drawn to the sap.

There are many instances of such relationships. Cattle Egrets benefit from following cattle or other large animals that stir up insects as they tread through grasslands. Gulls and other seabirds follow schools of porpoises in order to share the largesse. Ptarmigans trail caribou, which dig through the snow to unearth plants that the birds could not otherwise reach. Many other avian species share a shrike's larder of impaled prey.

A parasite is an organism that lives with and obtains food from another organism called a host. The host may or may not be harmed by the relationship. An obligate parasite is one that must live off another organism. A nonobligate parasite can live parasitically or not. The best examples of obligate parasites in North America are the continent's two species of cowbird, the Brown-headed Cowbird and the Bronzed Cowbird. They do not make their own nests but lay eggs in the nests of other species, which raise the cowbirds as if they were the hosts' own young. This takes being a good host to a whole new level. In contrast, some duck species are nonobligate parasites. They lay one or more eggs in another bird's nest, but also rear broods in their own nests. Actual parasitism of a nest is rare, but it does occur occasionally when a Black-billed Magpie takes over another species' nest for its own use.

Then there is piracy, also called kleptoparasitism. This can be quite brutal, but the behavior guarantees observers bird-watching thrills. Some raptors and seabirds garner a good portion of their food by harassing other birds to give up the food they have caught. Where Bald Eagles and Ospreys occur together, an eagle will pester an osprey until it drops its fish dinner. Frigatebirds are relentless in their pursuit of other seabirds and will even strike a bird that is reluctant to give up its catch. Some pelagic pirates don't have to see the food itself to begin the chase. They seem to know that some birds will regurgitate their meal to lighten the load in order to escape. The resulting largesse must quickly be snapped up before it hits the water below. Gulls are particularly good at following Brown Pelicans or sea ducks, hoping to snatch a free meal of fish stirred up in the frenzy.

So instead of turning my back on ants, I decided to contemplate their behavior, which led me on an interesting path. The motivation is curiosity. We can never know everything, but now that you know a bit more about these various kinds of bird behavior, you can find your own examples of symbiosis, commensalism, parasitism, and piracy.



Cattle Egret.

Lee Karney



## Donations

Thank you for your generous donations to support our many conservation, education and member activities!

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Richard Bachenheimer

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## Greeting the Grunion

When grunion spawn, they do so out of the water on sandy beaches, a rarity for marine fish. Historically, grunion spawning has occurred south of the Bay Area, from Central California to Baja California. A year ago, however, the Port of Oakland found grunion larvae near shore for the first time. A three-year study begins this spring to determine when and where the fish spawn in the Bay Area. Dr. Karen Martin of Pepperdine University, head of the study, is organizing volunteers, called Grunion Greeters, to look for grunion on local beaches in late May and early June at high tide and during the full moon. A workshop to introduce the project and train volunteers will be held May 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Port of Oakland. For more information and to reserve space at the workshop, email [grunion@pepperdine.edu](mailto:grunion@pepperdine.edu) or go to [www.grunion.org](http://www.grunion.org).

## Are You a Supporting Member of Golden Gate Audubon?

Did you know Golden Gate Audubon, a chapter of National Audubon Society (NAS), is an independent organization with its own separate budget? We receive less than \$3 of your \$20-plus NAS membership—which does not begin to cover the cost of producing the *Gull*, managing our extensive conservation and environmental education programs in San Francisco and the East Bay, and offering field trips, classes, and monthly slide-lectures. If you join Golden Gate Audubon *directly* you will have the satisfaction of knowing that 100 percent of your Supporting Membership helps to support our *local* programs.

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# Pelagic Trips for Golden Gate Audubon Members

If you are not already a Supporting Member of Golden Gate Audubon, you will want to become one to take advantage of this special offer (see page 11 for membership form). GGA and Shearwater Journeys have teamed up to provide three all-day pelagic trips at great savings to members. Seabirds and whales change with the seasons and locales. With this package, you have an extraordinary opportunity to visit the best Northern California pelagic sites at peak seasons—for an unprecedented low cost. The regular price of all three trips is \$440. GGA Supporting Members pay only \$360, a total savings of \$80, making Supporting Membership a worthwhile investment.

To register, send a check to Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister CA 95024, in the amount of \$270 for the Fort Bragg and Cordell Bank trips or \$360 for all three trips (all are nonrefundable). You may also sign up for the trips individually, but must pay the regular price, not the GGA Supporting Member discounted price. Note the dates of

your trips and if you are a GGA Supporting Member. Also include phone number and email address (if available) for each member of your party and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. A small fuel surcharge may be required the day of the trip. More trip details will be mailed upon payment. For additional information, contact the leader of the trips, Alan Hopkins, at 415.664.0983.

## Noyo Sea Canyon, Sunday, August 14 & Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary, Sunday, September 25

*Regular price: \$320 for both trips, or \$160 each*

**GGA member price: \$270 for both trips**

The trip to Noyo Sea Canyon departs from Fort Bragg at 7 a.m. Large groups of albatross are seen just offshore. Rarities on past trips have included Shy Albatross, Dark-rumped Petrel, Streaked Shearwater, and Brown Booby. For those interested in spending the weekend, the town of Fort Bragg offers excel-

lent birding at MacKerricher and Russian Gulch State Parks. The trip to Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary departs from Bodega Bay at 6:30 a.m. We expect to see an abundance of marine life, including Humpback Whale and dolphins. Birds include Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets, South Polar Skua, and Flesh-footed Shearwater, and occasionally a rarity (see December 2004 *Gull*).

## Monterey Bay Bonus Trip, Saturday, October 8

*Regular price: \$120*

**GGA member price: \$90 as part of package only**

Monterey Bay is the best-known pelagic birding destination on the West Coast. Along with shearwaters and auklets, we will look for large flocks of Ashy and Black Storm-Petrels, and for Wilson's and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels. We will also be alert for Black-vented Shearwater and other species that we are not likely to see on the previous trips. Trip departs from Monterey Harbor at 7 a.m.

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